

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 158892

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: AREAS IN WHICH INDIAN EMERGENCY MAY DIRECTLY
AFFECT INDO-US RELATIONS

REF: A) NEW DELHI 8748, B) STATE 157508

1. THIS MESSAGE RESPONDS TO SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED BY
REFTEL ON BASIS POLICY GUIDELINES LAID DOWN IN STATE 157508.

2. THE PRESS: WE CONCUR THAT EMBASSY SHOULD PROTEST ANY
FUTURE EXPULSIONS OF AMERICAN JOURNALISTS. WITH RESPECT
TO FORMAL ACTION ON POSSIBLE ARRESTS OF INDIAN EMPLOYEES
OF U.S. MEDIA AND/OR POSSIBLE BANNING OF FOREIGN PUBLI-
CATIONS IN INDIA, WE AGREE THERE IS PROBABLY NOTHING WE CAN
OR SHOULD DO BUT WOULD PREFER TO MAKE DECISIONS IN SPECIFIC
CASES IF AND WHEN THEY ARISE IN LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES AT
THE TIME.

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3. NASA-GOI EDUCATION TV EXPERIMENT: WE CONCUR THAT

INAUGURATION SHOULD BE PLAYED IN LOW KEY. RE AUGUST 1 CEREMONIES, OUR TENTATIVE VIEW, IN LINE WITH PREVIOUS GUIDANCE ON TRAVEL BY SENIOR USG PERSONNEL TO INDIA IN NEAR FUTURE, IS THAT NASA ADMINISTRATOR FLETCHER PROBABLY SHOULD NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE. ON OTHER HAND, WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE ATTENDANCE BY AMBASSADOR SAXBE WOULD

BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR OVERALL POLICY POSTURE. WE AGREE WE SHOULD DEFER AS LONG AS PRACTICABLE FINAL DECISION ON PARTICIPATION. MEANWHILE, PLEASE ADVISE RE GOI PLANS FOR INAUGURAL, INCLUDING LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION BY GOI (OUR EARLIER INFO WAS THAT MRS. GANDHI WOULD PRESIDE), AND LET US HAVE YOUR FURTHER THOUGHTS AS DATE FOR DECISION APPROACHES.

4. VISITS: WE AGREE THAT FOR PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AHEAD IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO HOLD OFF ON VISITS BY CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS INVITED BY AMBASSADOR FOR SPEECHMAKING PURPOSES AS WELL AS VISITS BY SENIOR USG PERSONNEL. HOWEVER, WE PREFER NOT TO DISCOURAGE TRAVEL BY PRIVATE DELEGATIONS, BUSINESSMEN OR CONGRESSMEN COMING ON OWN INITIATIVE. WE FEEL THIS SHOULD BE LEFT TO INDIVIDUALS THEMSELVES.

5. APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS IN REFTEL ON TIMING OF CHAVAN VISIT. WE WILL COMMUNICATE ABOUT THIS SEPARATELY. KISSINGER

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